



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 2 July - 1 August 2018



2 August 2018

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#### 1. (U) **Scope Note**

1. (U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

#### 2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories:**

A. (U) No current items to report.

#### 3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) LIBYA: On 1 August, a private news website stated that the Libyan Coast Guard had rescued 292 migrants, including 42 women and 10 children, from three inflatable boats off the coast near the northwestern city of Zawiya.

B. (U) LIBYA: On 30 July, the Italy-flagged anchor handling tug ASSO VENTOTTO picked up 101 migrants from an inflatable boat near the Sabratah oil platform, located 57 nm from Tripoli.

C. (U) SPAIN: Between 27 and 28 July, Spain's maritime rescue service saved nearly 1,000 migrants attempting the perilous crossing of the Mediterranean to Europe from North Africa.

D. (U) COLOMBIA: On 25 July, robbers boarded the tanker MAERSK MATSUYAMA anchored in Mamonal Anchorage.

E. (U) COSTA RICA: On 25 July, the Ministry of Public Security announced that a total of 580 kilograms of cocaine were found aboard a go-fast boat in Puntarenas.

F. (U) BRAZIL: On 23 July, police seized 336 kilograms of cocaine aboard a shipping vessel in Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro State.

G. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 19 July, French Customs officials seized 1.5 tons of cocaine from a sail boat.

H. (U) GHANA: On 18 July, six Ghanaians were apprehended who were suspected of attempting to stowaway onboard a ship bound for Europe at Takoradi Port.

I. (U) PARACEL ISLANDS: On 18 June, men in Chinese military uniforms boarded a Vietnamese fishing boat operating in the Paracel Islands.

J. (U) PARACEL ISLANDS: On 15 June, men in Chinese military uniforms boarded a Vietnamese fishing boat operating in the Paracel Islands.

#### **4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements**

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for August 2018. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit [http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for August 2018. For further information, please email: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn) or [etg546cn@163.com](mailto:etg546cn@163.com), or call Tel 00870 773 120 772. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for August 2018. To register, email: [gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in](mailto:gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in); or visit [ww.dgshipping.com](http://ww.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

#### **5. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later found to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

##### **A. (U) NORTH AMERICA:**

1. (U) UNITED STATES: On 25 July, China's COSCO Shipping Lines was hit by an apparent cyber-attack that caused a 'network breakdown' within its Americas region, the shipping line confirmed in a social media post. "Due to the local network breakdown within our Americas region, local email and network telephone is not working properly at the moment. For safety precautions, we have shut down connections with other regions for further investigations," COSCO wrote in a customer advisory posting. Despite the breakdown, COSCO ensured that so far its vessel operations have not been impacted. The breakdown is believed to have started at COSCO Pier J terminal at the Port of Long Beach, California, on the U.S. west coast and has spread to its operations in the U.K. ([www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com))

2. (U) UNITED STATES: On 11 July, authorities intercepted a vessel near Miami, Florida. A search of the vessel revealed 496 pounds of marijuana. ([www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov))

3. (U) MEXICO: On 9 July, navy personnel seized 250 kilograms of cocaine and apprehended two men aboard a small boat traveling off the coast of Guerrero. Routine aerial surveillance spotted the vessel 370 kilometers south of Acapulco. A

joint aerial and maritime operation resulted in the arrest of the two men found onboard a "go-fast" boat, popular for smuggling drugs. The boat was carrying 71 plastic canisters, 10 of which contained small packets of cocaine amounting to a total of 250 kilograms. The other 61 containers held 3,000 liters of fuel. (www.mexiconewsdaily.com)

4. (U) UNITED STATES: On 6 July, a U.S. Coast Guard and a Jamaica Defence Force joint operation interdicted a boat attempting to smuggle 2,116 pounds of marijuana into Key West, Florida. (www.jamaice-gleaner.com)

**B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:**

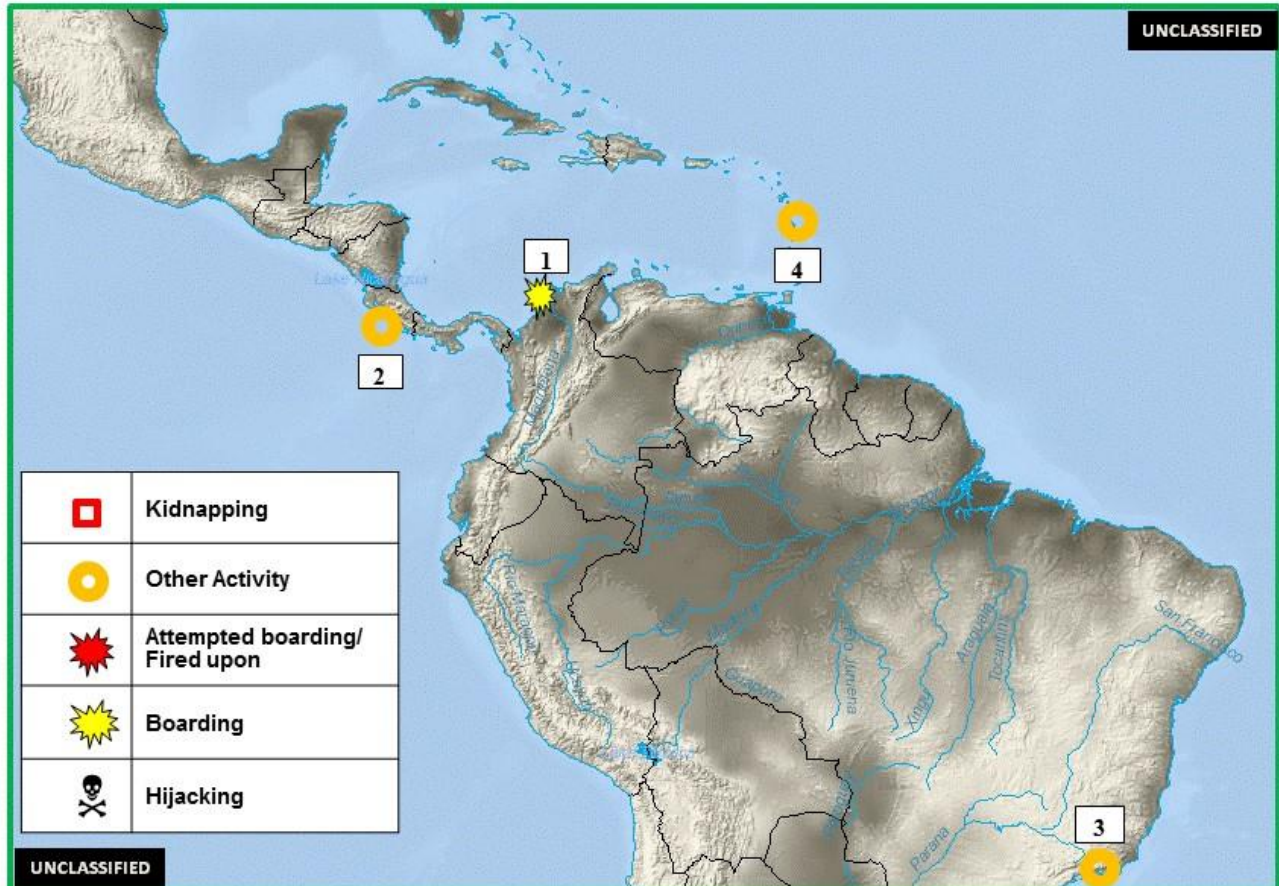


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) COLOMBIA: On 25 July, the duty officer onboard tanker MAERSK MATSUYAMA anchored near position 10:19N - 075:31W, Mamonal Anchorage, noticed the locks on the forward storeroom had been cut and ship's stores had been stolen, on investigating it was noticed that the robbers had gained access via the anchor chain. Incident reported to the local agent who informed the local police. (IMB; www.pvilt.com)

2. (U) COSTA RICA: On 25 July, the Ministry of Public Security announced that a total of 580 kilograms of cocaine were found aboard a go-fast boat in Puntarenas. Six men were arrested. (www.ews.co.cr)

3. (U) BRAZIL: On 23 July, police seized 336 kilograms of cocaine aboard a shipping vessel in Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro State. The narcotics were meant to be shipped to Europe, the police said. (www.pvilt.com)

4. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 19 July, French Customs officials seized 1.5 tons of cocaine from a sail boat. Two men were arrested in connection with the drug bust after setting fire to the boat and taking refuge in a life raft. However, the Customs Officials managed to extinguish the fire and discovered the cocaine packed in plastic bags. (www.stluciatimes.com)

5. (U) CHILE: On 18 July, authorities intercepted two fishing vessels on the same day conducting illegal fishing activities in the Corral region. F/V DON FELIX II was found to be carrying 3.1 tons of illegally caught Pacific pomfret; while F/V DON CARLIN I was found to have 2 tons of the fish. (www.fis.com)

6. (U) GUATEMALA: On 16 July, authorities from the National Police apprehended a small submarine, arresting 3 persons and confiscating 823 kilograms of cocaine. (www.101greatgoals.com)

### C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) GREAT BRITAIN: On 20 July, authorities intercepted S/Y MARCIA off the southwest coast of the country. A search of the vessel revealed two tons of cocaine. Two Dutch nationals were arrested. The port of Newlyn Harbour was briefly closed while the yacht was escorted into the area for further investigation. (www.independent.co.uk)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

### E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

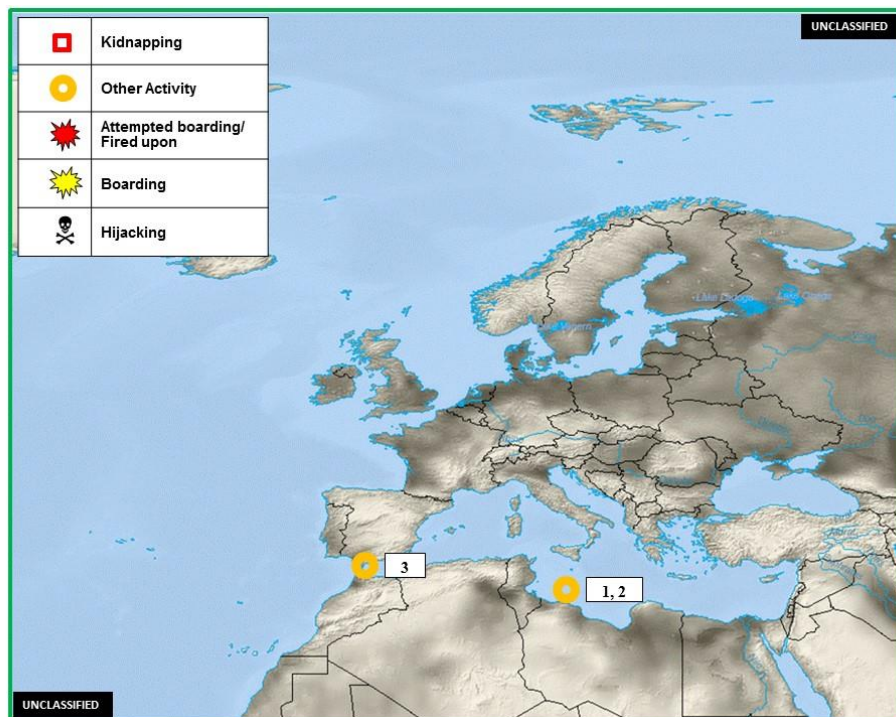


Figure 2. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBYA: On 1 August, a private news website stated that the Libyan Coast Guard had rescued 292 migrants, including 42 women and 10 children, from three inflatable boats off the coast near the northwestern city of Zawiya. It also quoted the spokesman for the Libyan naval forces as saying that 181 migrants, including 24 women and nine children, were also rescued off the coast of Garabulli, about 50 km east of the capital Tripoli. The migrants were handed over to the relevant authorities after receiving humanitarian and medical aid the website said. (Cairo-based news website Al-Wasat, focusing on Libyan affairs.)

2. (U) LIBYA: On 30 July, the Italy-flagged anchor handling tug ASSO VENTOTTO was tasked to pick up migrants from an inflatable boat which was floating 1.5 nm off the Sabratah oil platform, located 57 nm from Tripoli. The tug picked up 101 migrants and, as ordered by authorities, sailed to Tripoli escorted by a Libyan patrol boat. Migrants were safely disembarked in Tripoli. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

3. (U) SPAIN: Between 27 and 28 July, Spain's maritime rescue service saved nearly 1,000 migrants attempting the perilous crossing of the Mediterranean to Europe from North Africa. The service says it pulled 206 people from 10 different boats on 28 July, after rescuing 774 migrants traveling in 52 boats the day before. ([www.apnews.com](http://www.apnews.com))

4. (U) SPAIN: On 18 July, a group of possible migrants attacked the Great Britain-flagged general cargo ship CELTIC VENTURE as the ship bunkered in Cueta. The migrants threw a large number of stones at the ship and at personnel fueling the ship. Civil Guard forces intervened. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

5. (U) ITALY: On 12 July, the tug VOS THALASSA rescued 67 migrants off the coast of Libya. During the voyage, according to Italy's Interior Minister, a Sudanese man and a Ghanaian man allegedly tried to hijack the tug so it wouldn't return them to Libya. An Italian Coast Guard vessel brought the migrants back to Trapani, in western Sicily for further investigation. ([www.abcnews.go.com](http://www.abcnews.go.com); BBC)

6. (U) TURKEY: On 9 July, authorities in the port of Mersin confiscated 14.9-tons of acetic anhydride hidden in a truck traveling in a Turkey-flagged ro-ro ship from Italy, according to a statement from Turkey's Customs and Trade Ministry. The chemical is used in the production of heroin. ([www.aa.com.tr](http://www.aa.com.tr))

7. (U) LEBANON: On 4 July, authorities in the Port of Beirut seized a consignment of 2 million captagon pills hidden in wood cutting equipment. The machines were destined for Oman and Saudi Arabia. ([www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb))

8. (U) ITALY: On 3 July, authorities in the port of Crotona found a Ukraine-flagged sailing yacht carrying 71 migrants. The yacht had picked up the migrants in Turkey. ([www.ukrinform.net](http://www.ukrinform.net))

## F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

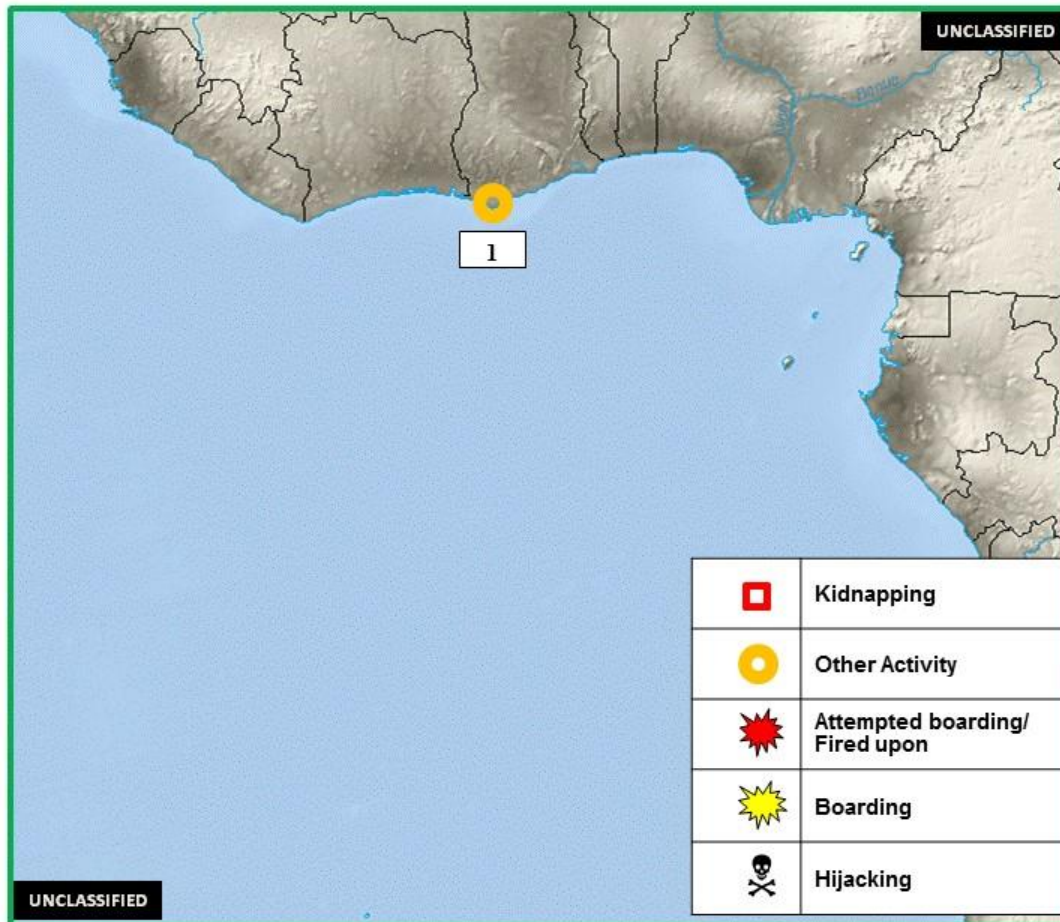


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime  
Crime

1. (U) GHANA: On 18 July, six Ghanaians were apprehended who were suspected of attempting to stowaway onboard a ship bound for Europe at Takoradi Port. Security personnel also arrested nine persons believed to have collaborated in the stowaway attempt. They were arrested by a combined team of National Security, Port Security, Immigration service, the Bureau of National Investigation and Marine Police personnel. The Marine Police say the persons got access to the vessel by using bamboo sticks as a makeshift ladder to climb aboard the ship. ([www.modernghana.com](http://www.modernghana.com))

2. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 22 July, a merchant vessel was approached by a blue and white fishing vessel near position 01:30N - 001:15E, 274 nm southeast of Takoradi, Ghana. The fishing vessel launched two skiffs which approached the merchant vessel. The vessel conducted evasive maneuvers preventing skiffs getting within 0.5 nm. (MDAT-GoG, [www.pviktd.com](http://www.pviktd.com))

3. (U) GABON: On 17 July, the government of Gabon announced that one week after the announcement of Operation Albacore II, a joint operation between an environmental NGO and the Gabonese government to tackle illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in central West Africa, the crew of the NGO's ship assisted Gabonese authorities in the arrest of two illegal fishing trawlers. The two vessels, the China-flagged trawlers HAIXIN 23 and HAIXIN 28, were intercepted after five fishing vessels were observed on radar crossing the border between the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Congo under the cover of darkness. Armed Gabonese marines boarded and secured the two trawlers without injury or incident as Fisheries Enforcement officers inspected the vessels. The other three trawlers escaped across the border into Congolese waters. Upon inspection, it was discovered that neither vessel was licensed to fish in Gabonese waters, and one of the trawlers did not even have a license to fish in Congolese waters. ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 July, the duty officer onboard a tug near position 01:49N - 003:12E, 220 nm southwest of Bayelsa State, noticed a fishing boat lowering a long skiff into the water. The skiff with four to five persons onboard started approaching the tug and closed to a distance of 0.5 nm. Master raised the alarm, increased speed and headed into the swell. Several attempts were made by the skiff to get closer to the tug, but failed due to the rough weather. After following the tug for over five hours, the skiff moved away. (IMB; [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 July, duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a product tanker anchored near position 06:16N - 003:11E, Lagos Secure Anchorage saw a boat tied up to the anchor chain and alerted the bridge. The crewman sighted a robber approaching him and retreated into the accommodation and secured the doors. Master raised the alarm, SSAS activated, distress message sent, patrol boats informed via VHF, crew mustered and ship's whistle sounded. Upon hearing the alarm, the robber escaped. Two patrol boats responded to the calls and searched the area. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com); [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

#### **G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:**

1. (U) DUBAI: On 8 July, Dubai police announced the arrest of four gangs planning to steal and smuggle 46 luxury cars out of the country in shipping containers. Police forces from across the country, including from Dubai, Sharjah, and Ajman formed a joint task force, which nabbed the gang members. They seized the thieves at a sea port as the cars were about to be smuggled out on a cargo ship. While 17 vehicles were found at the port, 13 were located at a warehouse in the area, 12 vehicles were seized in various emirates, and four cars were being used by the thieves to travel in the country. The vehicles included Bentley, Mercedes, Lexus and Rolls Royce cars, among others. ([www.gulfbusiness.com](http://www.gulfbusiness.com))

#### **H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA:**

1. (U) RED SEA: On 26 July, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said that yesterday, on 25 July, two Saudi Arabia-flagged oil tankers were attacked by Houthis near position 14:47N - 041:44E, 70 nm west of Hodeidah, Yemen. One of the tankers sustained minimal damage. "Saudi Arabia is temporarily halting all oil shipments through Bab al-Mandeb Strait immediately until the situation becomes clearer and the maritime transit through Bab al-Mandeb is safe," the statement said. (UKMTO; [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com); Reuters)

2. (U) SOMALIA: On 22 July, a merchant vessel near position 01:062N - 044:02E, in the vicinity of Baraawe port reported being under attack. The ship subsequently reported that the attack had ended and the ship is safe in the port. (UKMTO, [www.pviktd.com](http://www.pviktd.com))

3. (U) RED SEA: On 11 July, a merchant vessel transiting near position 13:22N - 042:45E, 15 nm south of the Hanish Islands, reported that a group of skiffs approached the vessel. One skiff approached the vessel to within 0.2 nm. The embarked security team showed their weapons and the skiff departed. A ladder was reportedly sighted. (UKMTO)

4. (U) RED SEA: On 4 July, a merchant vessel in position: 13:33N - 042:40E, approximately 5 nm south of Hanish Islands, Yemen, reported being approached at speed by three white and blue hulled skiffs. Each skiff had 7 - 8 persons onboard. The skiffs fired at the vessel, embarked security team returned fire. The crew and vessel are safe. (UKMTO; [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com); [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

5. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 4 July, a merchant vessel in position 24:02N - 059:55E, 77 nm northeast of Muscat, reported being approached at speed by two white hulled small craft with four persons onboard each skiff. The closest point of approach on the merchant vessel was 500 meters. (UKMTO, [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com); [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

## I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

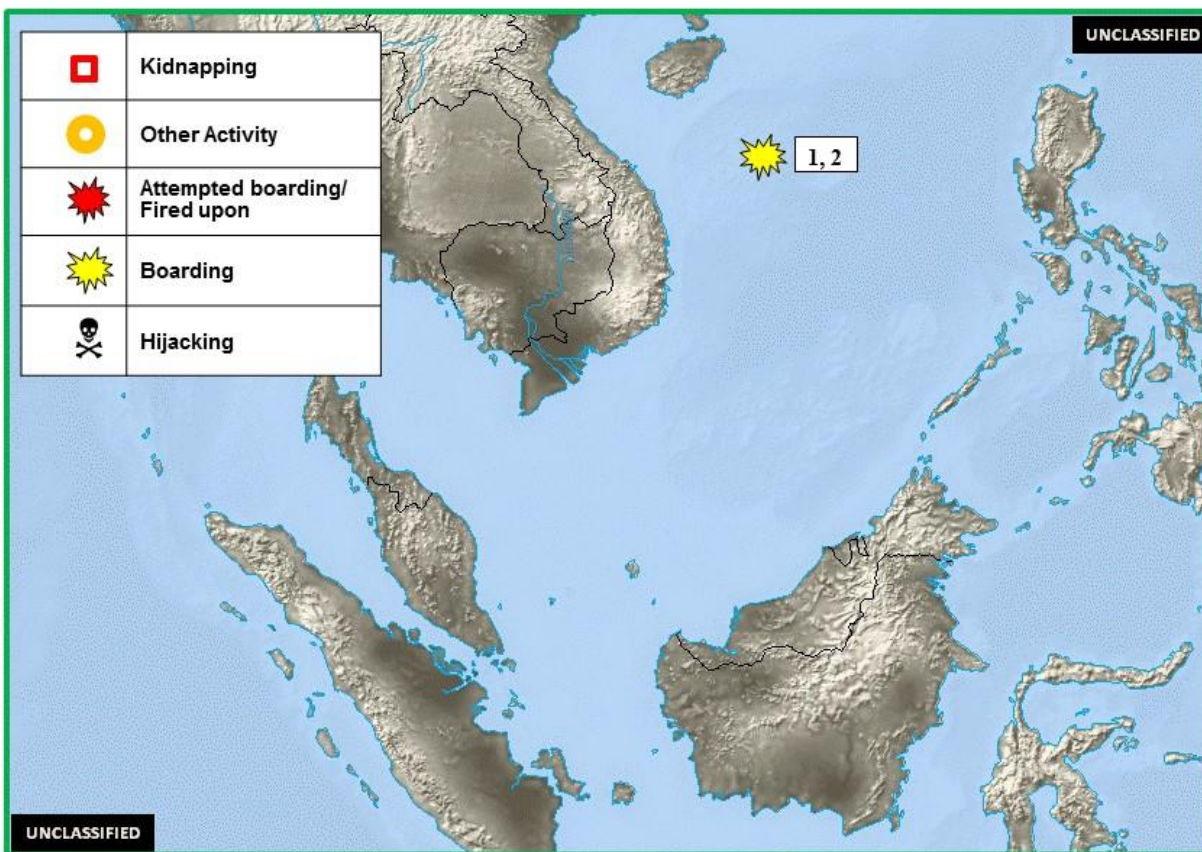


Figure 4. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PARACEL ISLANDS: On 18 June, two small Chinese boats, manned by officers in military uniform, approached a Vietnamese fishing boat conducting operations in the Paracel Islands. Men in Chinese military uniforms then boarded the fishing boat, damaged their fishing gear, then physically assaulted the boat's captain. ([www.upi.com](http://www.upi.com))

2. (U) PARACEL ISLANDS: On 15 June, men in Chinese military uniforms boarded a Vietnamese fishing boat operating in the Paracel Islands, damaged their fishing gear, then physically assaulted the crew. ([www.upi.com](http://www.upi.com))

3. (U) VIETNAM: On 24 July, authorities discovered 35 kilograms of heroin hidden in a shipping container of imported scrap steel in the port of Cai Mep. ([www.talkvietnam.org](http://www.talkvietnam.org))

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 19 July, authorities arrested two persons at the port of Samar, Visayas, while the two were attempting to smuggle firearms and ammunition. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in Central Visayas said ten .38-caliber revolvers and four .45-caliber pistols with various types of ammunition were recovered. The suspects, who were in a bus on a roll-on roll-off ferry bound for Ormoc, Leyte, at the Marabut port, failed to present the necessary documents, the PCG said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

5. (U) BANGLADESH: On 19 July, robbers boarded a Panama-flagged container ship anchored near position 22:19N - 091:43E, Chittagong Outer Anchorage and stole three mooring ropes. The robbers escaped unnoticed although upon uncovering the theft, crew notified the Bangladesh Coast Guard who dispatched a patrol boat to the area and apprehended the assailants, who were still near the vessel. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))



6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 July, robbers boarded a tanker berthed near position 05:48N - 118:03E, Sandakan Port, Sabah State, stole ship's properties and escaped unseen. The theft was noticed by the duty crew on routine rounds. Incident reported to the local agent who informed the port police. Local police boarded the tanker for investigation. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 5 July, a duty crew during routine rounds onboard an Isle of Man-flagged LNG tanker anchored near position 13:45N - 121:00E, Batangas Anchorage, saw an unauthorized person on the forecastle deck. He immediately informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised, crew was mustered and a search was carried out. Upon checking, ship's stores were reported as missing. No unauthorized person found onboard. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

8. (U) BANGLADESH: On 3 July, eight robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier using ropes attached to hooks near position 22:19N - 091:43E, Chittagong Anchorage. The robbers took desk watchman hostage and tied him up, stole the aft mooring ropes, and escaped. Incident reported to local agent. (IMB)

#### **J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:**

1. (U) HONG KONG: On 8 July, authorities seized about 8,700-kilograms of suspected Thailand rosewood from a container at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound. Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected a container arriving in Hong Kong from Cambodia. (www.7thspace.com)

**K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

### **6. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

#### **(U) Contact**

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

#### **(U) Other Resources**

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm).

### **7. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References**

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

**(U) Terminology**

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

**(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.

**(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.

**(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized embarkation of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.

**(U) Fired Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.

**(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.

**(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.

**(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.

**(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

**(U) Sourcing**

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Lloyd's
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)

- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

**(U) ICOD:** 1 August 2018

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:  
<http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence-Community/Piracy>